THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) and (b) No, sir.

(c) As per experts and available information, the therapeutic use of Viagra in diabetic patients has not been established for routine clinical use.

Conflicting estimates about AIDS

3484. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEAL.TH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the conflicting estimates regarding the number of AIDS/HIV patients in India by some foreign agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many agencies, including UN agencies, are collecting data about AIDS;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to regulate the working of NGOs and foreign agencies working in this area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) and (b) Yes, sir. However, the estimates of HIV infections by some foreign agencies are based on the nation wide sentinel surveillance report undertaken annually by the Government. But the number of deaths quoted in the report are mere projections and Government, therefore, does not agree with the report on number of deaths.

(c) The National AIDS Control Organisation, Government of India is the only agency collecting data through annual sentinel surveillance on HIV infection.

(d) and (e) Yes, sir. Government has formulated guidelines for the involvement of NGOs. The involvement of UN and bilateral agencies is subject to the approval of the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India.

Education Programme for AIDS Awareness

3485. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of Government spending incalculable